

# **Lt. Governor Brown Convenes Fourth Meeting of Health Care Reform Coordinating Council**

*Council to release final interim report next week*

## **Lt. Governor's Office News Release**

**Annapolis, MD (July 19, 2010)** - Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown presided over the fourth meeting of the Health Care Reform Coordinating Council today in Annapolis. The Council, co-chaired by Lt. Governor Brown and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John M. Colmers, will present the final report to Governor O'Malley and release it to the public on Monday, July 26. The final report will include a full break down of anticipated savings to Maryland taxpayers due to federal health care reform.

"We have a great responsibility in Maryland and across our nation to implement federal health reform and transform our health system in a way that will provide ultimate benefits for patients, providers and industry professionals," said Lt. Governor Brown. "Through careful planning and detailed recommendations from the Health Care Reform Coordinating Council and our partners in health care, we are confident health reform will have a great impact on the lives of all Marylanders, vastly improve the cost, access and delivery of health care services in our state and save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decade."

Today's Council meeting facilitated a discussion on the interim report, projected meeting dates of the Council and its workgroups and an overview of other state health reform efforts and experiences. The interim report to be released on Monday, July 26 will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the federal legislation and will identify critical decision points that must be considered by the State. It will also include potential grants and funding opportunities, a timeline of legislative and regulatory changes necessary for implementation, and a summary of public comments received by the Council. A final report is due to the Governor by January 1, 2011.

The Health Care Reform Coordinating Council was created by Governor Martin O'Malley through Executive Order in March 2010 to advise the administration on policies and procedures to implement the recent federal health care reform legislation as efficiently and effectively as possible. As states assume the critical role of implementing multiple aspects of health care reform, the Council will make policy recommendations and offer implementation strategies to keep Maryland among the leading states in expanding quality, affordable health care while reducing waste and controlling costs.

Lt. Governor Brown leads the O'Malley-Brown administration's efforts on a range of issues, including health care. Brown led this year's effort to pass the Medicaid False Claims Act and establish Patient Centered Medical Homes. He chairs the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council and has championed efforts to expand access to mental and behavioral health services for Maryland's veterans.

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